



## PUBLIC MEETING

# May 25, 2006

**Platte County Community Center South**  
**8875 Clark Ave., Parkville, Mo.**

### Project Description

The Route 45 Location Study is designed to determine the most advantageous location and type of proposed highway improvement to this corridor based on:

- Project purpose and need
- Engineering constraints
- Environmental constraints

### Meeting Goals

Today's meeting is designed to help you:

- Learn more about the study and its goals and schedule
- Review current and future traffic conditions
- Share your questions, concerns and preferences with the study team



# Improving Route 45

*The Route 45 Location Study – the subject of today’s meeting – will lead to improvements to be constructed between Routes 9 and K in 2010, thanks to voter-approved Amendment 3 funding.*



## Taking the community’s pulse

The Study Team recently mailed 350 surveys to Route 45 property owners and others in order to better understand community needs and preferences regarding improvements to the corridor.

Area residents clearly are vitally interested in how Route 45 will be improved.

Nearly 32 percent of recipients answered and returned a community survey regarding Route 45’s current conditions and future improvements. Such surveys often are answered by 10 percent or fewer recipients.

The four-page survey mailed in late April elicited responses from 112 people who shared their thoughts about Route 45 in terms of current conditions and future improvements.

Respondents generally thought Route 45 needed improvement. Most said Route 45 does not meet their transportation needs currently and was unlikely to do so in the future.

The biggest issue for respondents was safety – and not surprisingly. Between 2000 and 2004, Route 45 had a 26 percent higher accident rate than the statewide average for similar corridors.

Good transportation planning often requires prioritizing different values. Please rank in order of importance the following values in relation to the future design of Route 45 (with 1 being most important, 12 least important and no two choices being given the same number):

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ease of access to local businesses | <input type="checkbox"/> Ease of access to regional businesses            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ease of movement                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Economic development                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental impacts              | <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of life                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Residential growth                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Speed of movement                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Consistent design along Route 45                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of congestion                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Presence of amenities (bicycle/pedestrian paths) |

*The April survey sent to 350 Route 45 stakeholders asked recipients to describe their current and future expectations regarding Route 45. This question was one of several asked to better understand area residents’ values and priorities in relation to proposed future improvements.*

Respondents highly valued being able to move easily through the corridor. However, most respondents also wanted direct access to the roadway, even though congestion and accidents can increase as the number of access points to a roadway increases.

Survey results, along with other community input and feedback, will be used by the study team to help develop recommendations for improving Route 45. When final results of the survey are tabulated, they will be posted for public review at:

[www.modot.org/kansascity/major\\_projects/Route45.htm](http://www.modot.org/kansascity/major_projects/Route45.htm)

# Improving how Route 45 serves the Northland

**Level of service is an important transportation concept that describes how well a roadway works.**

Anyone who drives Route 45 regularly knows that they will experience a wide variety of driving conditions, ranging from easy travel to stop-and-go congestion.

How smoothly and safely Route 45 handles traffic depends a lot on where you are along this important corridor – and can be described by an important transportation planning concept known as “level of service.”

## Defining levels of service

Level of service (LOS) is a technical term in which a letter ranking describes how well a road moves traffic.

Much like a report card, roads are given a letter “grade” ranging from “A” to “F” depending on how well they move traffic. For example:

- Level of service “A” means free-flowing traffic similar to what is experienced on an interstate like Interstate 29.
- Level of service “C” is the goal for most roadway designs. At this level, there are few waits or delays.
- Level of service “F” means heavy congestion and delays caused by traffic amounts that exceed the roadway’s capacity.

## Route 45 levels of service

Based on traffic volume and conditions, the Route 45 Location Study team has determined that most of Route 45 between Route 9 and Interstate 435 is a level of service “D” or “E.”

Several intersections have undesirable levels of service, while the majority of the road segments between intersections are approaching that mark.

## Improving levels of service

Since capacity helps determine levels of service, the study team will be looking at a variety of tools for improving Route 45’s ability to handle growing traffic levels in the future. These tools may include access management, added lanes, intersection improvements and/or other alternatives.

Average Daily Traffic Volume Comparisons

	Route 45 (Crooked Road to Route 9)	Comparable Location (Existing Volume)
Existing Volume	15,715	MO-152 West of I-29 (15,084)
Construction Year Volume - 2010	23,150	North Oak @ Vivion (23,250)
Design Year Volume - 2030	53,000	Barry Road @ I-29 (50,000)

*Traffic is projected to increase along Route 45. By the year 2010, when construction of Route 45 improvements are scheduled to occur, traffic volumes will have increased 47 percent. By 2030, traffic will be 237 percent greater than today.*



*Improvements to the intersection of Routes 45 and 9 have resulted in a level of service “C.”*



*Motorists experience congestion and delays as they travel this segment of Route 45. It operates at a level of service “E.”*

# What do you think?

The Route 45 study offers you many opportunities to learn more about the study and to provide feedback:

## • Today's meeting

At today's open-house meeting study team members are present to talk with you and to answer your questions regarding many topics, including:

- Study goals and schedule
- Current and future traffic conditions and
- Background on Amendment 3

## • Briefings

The study team will meet with various stakeholder groups this summer to discuss emerging recommendations about ways to improve Route 45 and to get feedback from the community to refine those recommendations further.

## • Newsletters

The first of four project update newsletters have been mailed to Route 45 property owners and others. The other three issues will be sent approximately every two to three months.

## • Web site updates

Project materials and updates will be periodically posted to the project web site at:

[www.modot.org/kansascity/major\\_projects/Route45.htm](http://www.modot.org/kansascity/major_projects/Route45.htm)

## • Feedback

You can also make your opinion known by contacting the MoDOT project manager for the Route 45 Location Study:

**Allan Zafft**  
**Transportation Planning Coordinator**  
**Missouri Department of Transportation**  
**600 NE Colbern Rd.**  
**Lee's Summit, MO 64086**  
**816/622-0687**  
**[Route45@modot.mo.gov](mailto:Route45@modot.mo.gov)**



## Community guidance regarding improving Rt. 45

**A recent series of community briefings offers guidance about how to best improve Route 45.**

A series of small-group meetings were held May 16 and 18 with community leaders, emergency service providers and property owners.

These meetings gave MoDOT and the study team the opportunity to hear directly about some of the issues they should address as they develop recommendations for improving Route 45.

Participants asked MoDOT to look into a number of items, including:

- Enhancing safety along the corridor
- Designing potential intersection improvements to improve emergency vehicle operations
- Establishing a proposed alignment as early as possible
- Minimizing right-of-way impacts on adjacent businesses
- Maintaining access to homes and businesses during actual construction

This input, along with other community feedback, will be used by the study team to develop proposed improvements to Route 45.